Below are statements, or propositions. On your research paper, choose ONE of these propositions and then *agree or disagree* with it. You may choose a topic different from the ones listed here, but I must approve the topic *before* you begin to write your paper. If you study a foreign language, you might consider writing about a topic that connects that nation and the United States. After you have stated your position, or argument, you will support it with *evidence* you find in your research. Remember, whether you agree or disagree has no impact on your grade. The success with which you SUPPORT your argument has a huge impact on your grade. Minimum 1,000 words in MLA format. See <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf>. For additional information, go to Purdue OWL web site.

DUE DATES

* Noodle Tools outline. Deadline: midnight time stamp, Monday 20 November. *Twenty-five percent of total paper grade*. Five percent per day late penalty. Required: Research Question; Argument (thesis); Outline; Five index cards minimum; Five sources minimum. (Use sources that served you well on your first paper: textbook, Encyclopedia of African American History, other general sources.)
* Draft. Deadline: place in folder by midnight, Monday, 4 December. Double quiz grade. Five points per day late penalty. Minimum required: 250 words of text; *clear argument* statement; three support buckets; three sources in Works Cited section; three in-text citations using proper MLA format.
* Final: Deadline: paper time-stamped *before* midnight 19 December. Please see wikispace for rubric, it has been modified. Paper grade. Five points per day late penalty. *Please* take easy points from me: three direct quotations, *one of them from a primary source*; HEADINGS; first three letters of in-text citation match *exactly* the first three letters of associated Works Cited entry*; every* Works Cited entry has a corresponding in-text citation, no exceptions. Remember how I check the match between in-text citations and Works Cited entries.

Propositions:

1. The Progressives worked successfully to disperse political and economic power. They introduced caring into the psyche of the American people.
2. New technologies that nations can exploit to expand their power almost always bring war.
3. The world today mirrors the world situation just prior to World War I. We must hone our awareness about events that could trigger World War III.
4. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was more overreaching than the Treaty of Versailles. To say that the Treaty of Versailles itself was the actual seed for World War II is to completely misunderstand deceitful use of propaganda.
5. World War I did more than any other single event in history to bring world peace for the long-term.
6. World War I was the event that ought to have launched the broader Civil Rights Movement in America. It did not. Although African Americans had proved their courage, patriotism and capabilities during both the Civil War and during World War I, entrenched white interests persevered and harmed Black efforts to rise until well into the 20th century.
7. The Great Depression of the 20th century was a preview of events that will occur again during the 21st century. One of the main reasons for the Great Depression was the disparity in wealth. This disparity is happening again and may very well be a core cause of yet another great depression.
8. The United States’ need for economic growth and national defense justified its intrusion into the affairs of Latin America during the early 20th century. General Smedley Butler did not see the whole picture when he said that, “war is a racket.”
9. The United States should fight wars to promote democracy. History has demonstrated convincingly that democracy, while not perfect, is far better than all other ways of managing a society.
10. Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” failed on two scores. First, it did not end the depression. Second, it opened the door to socialism, which has weakened American capitalism over the long run.

Good web sites for researching your paper (in alphabetical order):

<http://www.besthistorysites.net/>

<http://www.biography.com/>

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

[www.learner.org](http://www.learner.org)

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

<http://www.us-history.org/>

DC Public Library: Biography in Context; Student Resources in Context

Many sites exist. Find a few you like and *use them throughout the year*. Web sites can be used the same as a book with which you have grown comfortable.

*"The best wrestler is not he who has learned thoroughly all the tricks and twists of the art, which are seldom met with in actual wrestling, but he who has well and carefully trained himself in* ***one or two of them, and watches keenly for an opportunity of practicing them****." Seneca, quoting Demetrius the Cynic*